26-1945

Alabama

Columbus, Ga., Enquirer-Sun
May 29, 1945

Negroes In Alabama Conduct Observance Of Emancipation Day

Russell county Negroes Monday marked the observance of Emancipation day with picnics, music and dancing, Sheriff Ralph Matthews said.

Emancipation day has the same significance to the Negro as Memorial day does to the southerner, said E. E. Farley, director of the Negro YMCA in Phenix City. Community church gatherings, speeches and parades highlight the day's activities in most sections of the South. The Negro's progress since the day of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by Abraham Lincoln is recounted at these observances.

Farley said that "Patience, wisdom and understanding of the white race will eventually smooth the hardships of the Negro," and added that "Most of the Negroes know, as I do, that their best home is in the South."

The New Type Emancipation

Memphis World, Tenn. 1-5-45

Emancipation Day observance by Negro Americans, marking the date of the freedom of their forbears from physical bondage, expands in significance with the years. Over the long stretch since 1861, it has been the custom of Emancipation Day orators to emphasize the achievements of the Negro—his contributions to history and culture and the greatness of our heroes of bygone days, to the grevious and costly exclusion a program and a plan of action for the contemporaries of their own day. "We hark back too much to people who are dead," said Miss Pearl Buck in a commencement address to the students of Howard University. "Crispus Attucks, hero that he was, is dead. So is Booker T. Washington and so is Harriet Tubman. We need living heroes of our people," ended Miss Buck.

--

That is sound advice. It does not mean that we shall be any less reverent toward the memory of departed saints, but that we shall pay tribute to our living leaders and the holy causes in which they are engaged. It means that in commemorating the works of Crispus Attucks, we shall also recognize the worth and inspiration of a Brigadier General , Benjamin O. Davis; that in honoring the memory of Phyllis Wheatley, we shall remember the struggles of a Mary McLeod Bethune, a Marian Anderson; that we shall not lose our ardor for Frederick Douglass, for Paul Laurence Dunbar, nor John Russworm, but that we shall demonstrate a decent regard for the lofty achievements of a W. E. B. Dubois, a William Stanley Braithwaite, Frederick D. Patterson, Walter F. White and others.

Fortunately, within the past ten or more years, and more especially since the war began, there has been a noticeable and encouraging change in emphasis by Negro leaders. Almost to a community, Negro Emancipation Day speakers are demonstrating the utter futility of rattling the dry bones of sainted heroes, while the great mass of our people are suffering the great inconveniences of second-rate citizens. Today, therefore, they are spending their energies and intellects in mapping a program and planning a strategy for an oppressed minority.

Not only do we need a new program and plan of strategy. We need a crystallization of sentiment and support to some intellectually capable, socially sensitive, unselfish, trustworthy Negro (not leader) spokesman, charged with the responsibility of acting for and upon the authority of the Negro community on occasions demanding such action. Herculean task, you say. We agree. But as between this enormous task and the present hobgoblin of little, self-appointed leaders in every Negro community, we should prefer the former. The woods is literally full of such self-righteous leaders. As a consequence, the Negroes find themselves getting nowhere fast. True, we have made gains, but except for the universal struggle of the Negro press, ours is still an inarticulate, inordinate struggle.

PROUD OF DR. WRIGHT

Savannah Tribune 1-11-45

About fifty years that section of the city north of Gwinnett street, west of West Broad and south of Huntingdon was known as Hohenstein Field. It is now Maple street lane, Maple, Oak, Charles to the Union station railroad tracks. St. Philip, and St Paul churches, the Maple Street School several known places of business, offices and cluster of homes now occupy that space where the boys of those days played games, chased by the police and used as a short cut to Frogtown and Yamacraw. Many well-known residents of present days saw the light in that section. Not one of them better known, more beloved and admired than Milton S. J. Wright. He attended school there, graduated from the public school and went to college from Savannah. He was the son of fond and proud parents who lived to see him elevated to honorable literary heights, receiving degrees from the University of Berlin and today dean of one of the foremost universities of this country. Honor was bestowed upon him the first day of the year when he was invited to deliver the emancipation day address. This address was a gem, a literary treat never before given our people. It deserved an improved setting with addition of thousands to have heard him. The great regret of those friends who know the family, is that the devoted father passed to the great beyond before seeing the son greatly honored by those among whom he was reared, and to have heard that address which was a master piece. The Tribune has often sung the praise of Dr. Wright and extended him plaudits justly deserved. But slight justice can only be given for this occasion. Dr. Wright claims that some others inspired him in life, but he is to a greater extent inspiring hundreds of our youth, especially those who are the product of Hohenstein Field.

Savannah, Ga.

Ask No Special Favors, Chicago Speaker States

Atlanta World 1-2-45

Emancipation Day Event Colorful

BY V. W. HODGES

"Negroes have made America strong and rich and great. They have sealed her freedom with their blood. That freedom therefore must be no dream, it must become a living reality here and now," declared the Rev. Archibald J. Carey, youthful pastor of Chicago's Woodlawn AME Church here Monday afternoon. 1-2-45

Appearing here under the auspices of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in connection with its annual observation of Emancipation Day exercises, the distinguished minister and lawyer, son of the late Bishop Archibald J. Carey, Sr., spoke before an audience which overran the main floor, balconies and aisles of spacious Wheat Street Baptist Church, sending more than 350 late comers scampering into the basement unit of the church, where the speaker's voice was carried to them through an amplifier.

VARIED PROGRAM 1-2-45

Following the congregational singing of the Star Spangled Banner, Rev. L. M. Tobin, pastor, Providence Baptist Church, led the invocation. The Spelman Quartet, directed by Professor Kemper Harreld, sang two selections. L. D. Milton, President of the Citizens Trust Company and Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Atlanta NAACP, cited the progress over the past year and stated an estimated need of between $15,000 and $20,000 to prosecute the increasing activities of the branch during 1945. E. M. Martin, Secretary, The Atlanta Life Insurance Company, made the membership appeal, following which L. D. Milton announced the sum of $1,420.48 in the public appeal and another $3,000 in deferred payments from the churches and ministers.

"Whatever it is in America that other citizens want, that is what Negroes want," continued Rev Carey's forceful plea for full American Democracy for Negro citizens. "Careers and home have been broken," he said, "patterns of life have been altered among Negroes in order to defend with their lives our freedom on foreign lands. It is but natural that we should want some of this freedom in our land.

The speaker sent a great ripple of laughter through the large throngs when he cited the instance of a young Negro youth calling out to himself the numbers one, two, three, etc., to nine-Hitler. Upon being asked the meaning, he said the Negro lad replied: "It means I'm coming if you are ready and I'm coming if you aren't ready." He likened the determination of American Negroes to win full Democracy to that of the small Negro lad. 1-2-45

DEFINES POSITION

Defining the position of the Negro, Rev. Carey said: "We want no special privileges. All we want is what any normal American citizens receives. We want no special section in trains, in hotels, schools, residential districts. We want jobs based on skill rather than on skin. We want vote without mention of White Primaries, poll tax and other irritating restrictions upon citizenship in a democracy in which the rights of the common man can no longer be abrogated without leaving a dangerous impression in the minds of our allies over the world.

In concluding his remarks, the speaker chided those white people and many Negroes who continue to say "well, you know this is a white man's country after all. This is our country as surely as any man's country," he said, and, "despite the talk about Back to Africa, we will stay here and "fix up America so it will be nice to stay in." 1-2-45

Dr. W. R. Wilkes, the pastor of Allen Temple AME Church introduced the speaker, who also is a friend and brother beloved. Dr. L. M. Terrill, pastor, Zion Hill Baptist Church, sang a solo, "Wade in de Water" and led the congregation in "Lord I Want To Be A Christian." Other features of the afternoon included remarks by branch President C. L. Harper, soprano solo by Miss Faustina Hall.

RESOLUTIONS READ 1-2-45

Dr. Ira DeA. Reid of the Sociology department, Atlanta University read resolutions for the branch as follows: 1. That the branch shall conduct an intensive campaign for 10,000 additional registered voters; 2. That in due tribute to the national Secretary, Walter White, the branch shall honor him by setting aside and celebrating "Walter White Day" in Atlanta upon his return from the Pacific War Zone; 3. That the branch take an active role in the [illegible] Seventh War Loan Drive; 4. That the branch will explain its 1945 program; 5. That the branch views with dissatisfaction the policies and program of the Colored Boys Farm and urges official action in bringing about needed changes; 6. That the branch believes that the Atlanta Community begins the 1945 year armed with the strength of intelligent community interest and action gained during 1944 as this relates to the issues of the White Primaries, the Poll Tax, Discriminatory School Facilities, Unequal salaries for teacher, Immoral nuisances in Negro Neighborhoods, Recreation and the whole fabric of

discriminatory segregation.

The branch entertained for a seventh year, the presentation of the 27 Club Award, when B. E. Mays, President of Morehouse College, made the formal presentation speech and 1944 award to S. W. Walker, the President of the Pilgrim Life Insurance Company, for distinguished service.

Emancipation Day Observed At Chickasha

Dunjee Tells of Challenges of The Present Hour

CHICKASHA, Okla.— Editor Roscoe Dunjee, President of the Nat'l Negro Business League, delivered the Emancipation address here Monday evening, January 1st, in the Auditorium of Lincoln High School under the auspieces of the Ministerial Alliance and the Chickasha Branch of the NAACP.

Checking the Negro progress in the United States during his residence in America. Dunjee said the present hour presented more difficult challenges than ever before to the black men of the earth.

"In this hour when the dark world is crying for freedom, Negroes in America should be careful that they do not ask for a half loaf. If we have the intelligence and the vision claimed by American black folk, we are the one to point towards definite roads to freedom. No black man in America should today ask for less that the people of India, China, Africa and supressed peoples in distant island conutries."

During the evening the following program was rendered: Music Negro National Anthem; Invocation, Rev. C. Hill; Music, Lincoln School, Directed by Mrs. C. L. Boyd; Scripture Reading, Rev. C. B. Newton; Remarks, Master of Ceremonies, Rev. E. C. Beatty; Reading of the Emancipation, Mrs. J. P. Coffey; Music, Lincoln School Presentation of the Speaker; Address, Mr. Roscoe Dunjee, Editor of The Black Dispatch; Installation of Officers of the NAACP; Music, Lincoln School; Offertory; Presentation of War Mothers.

The New Type Emancipation

Emancipation Day observance by Negro Americans, marking the date of the freedom of their forbears from physical bondage, expands in significance with the years. Over the long stretch since 1861, it has been the custom of Emancipation Day orators to emphasize the achievements of the Negro—his contributions to history and culture and the greatness of our heroes of bygone days, to the grevious and costly exclusion a program and a plan of action for the contemporaries of their own day. "We hark back too much to people who are dead," said Miss Pearl Buck in a commencement address to the students of Howard University. "Crispus Attucks, hero that he was, is dead. So is Booker T. Washington and so is Harriet Tubman. We need living heroes of our people," ended Miss Buck.

That is sound advice. It does not mean that we shall be any less reverent toward the memory of departed saints, but that we shall pay tribute to our living leaders and the holy causes in which they are engaged. It means that in commemorating the works of Crispus Attucks, we shall also recognize the worth and inspiration of a Brigadier General , Benjamin O. Davis; that in honoring the memory of Phyllis Wheatley, we shall remember the struggles of a Mary McLeod Bethune, a Marian Anderson; that we shall not lose our ardor for Frederick Douglass, for Paul Laurence Dunbar, nor John Russworm, but that we shall demonstrate a decent regard for the lofty achievements of a W. E. B. Dubois, a William Stanley Braithwaite, Frederick D. Patterson, Walter F. White and others.

Fortunately, within the past ten or more years, and more especially since the war began, there has been a noticeable and encouraging change in emphasis by Negro leaders. Amost to a community, Negro Emancipation Day speakers are demonstrating the utter futility of rattling the dry bones of sainted heroes, while the great mass of our people are suffering the great inconveniences of second-rate citizens. Today, therefore, they are spending their energies and intellects in mapping a program and planning a strategy for an oppressed minority.

Nit only do we need a new program and plan of strategy. We need a crystallization of sentiment and support to some intellectually capable, socially sensitive, unselfish, trustworthy Negro (not leader) spokesman, charged with the responsibility of acting for and upon the authority of the Negro community on occasions demanding such action. Herculean task, you say. We agree. But as between this enormous task and the present hobgoblin of little, self-appointed leaders in every Negro community, we should prefer the former. The woods is literally full of such self-righteous leaders. As a consequence, the Negroes find themselves getting nowhere fast. True, we have made gains, but except for the universal struggle of the Negro press, ours is still an inarticulate, inordinate struggle.

Atlantans Score In January 1 Addresses

Six Atlantans were featured orators, Monday, New Year's Day, at annual Emancipation Day observances held in this state and two who crossed over the line into neighboring states.

Heard before a capacity audience in Fitzgerald, Georgia, at a celebration Monday was Attorney A. T. Walden, nationally recognized political leader, and head of the Citizens Negro Democratic Clubs of Georgia. The basis of his remarks around the grasp of the ballot by Negroes of Georgia, who may only help themselves from their plight by the exercise of such a powerful weapon, one which plays the most prominent part in ridding a race of slavery, ignorance and poverty.

FINE JOINT SUBJECT

Speaking on a subject taken from two themes before a vast audience in the city auditorium in Anniston, Alabama under the auspices of the Citizens and Ministerial Emancipation Committee was Rev. William Holmes Borders, pastor of the Wheat Street Baptist Church. From the themes, "Let Freedom Ring," and "Let My People Go," Rev. Borders urged his hearers that through militant leadership in the pulpit freedom can be made to ring freely by people of all races, and that once freedom is rung loudly people once enslaved may be permitted to go on their way making even greater contributions to the growth and development of their races, and protecting a rich heritage that is rightly theirs.

Speaking from the subject, "The New Negro In This New Day of New Deals," at Macon, Georgia, before a large crowd of citizens was Bishop W. A. Fountain, prelate of the African Methodist Church in Georgia, who appeared there under the sponsorship of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of that city. In the message the senior bishop of his church placed emphasis on the part the church must play in the new deals for the race, in the matter of education, economic and politics.

VOTING URGED BY DOBBS

Delivering the address in Morris Brown AME Church at Charleston, S. C. under the auspices of the local Emancipation Day Citizens committee, was John Wesley Dobbs, grand master of the Prince Hall Masons of the state, who was heard from the subject, "Building a Race." In the message Mr. Dobbs, urged upon his vast audience to use their ballot, and stressed that through that medium only will the race be able to free itself from bondage.

Dr. L. M. Hill, well known in medical circles of the city and grand master of the York Rite Masons of the state, told a group in the largest Baptist Church at Locust Grove, Georgia, "forget the past, forget slavery and dwell heart and soul on those things which will emancipate your race from the slave problems of this day and the days to come." Dr. Hill, who appeared under the sponsorship of the York Rite Masonic District there appealed to his large numbers of listeners to begin now to prepare now for the boys and girls in service so that when they come back to their homes there will be nothing in their communities that may enslave them.

"Arise And Go Over This Jordan," was the subject theme used by Rev. S. T. Huff, former pastor of the Clarkston Baptist Church, who spoke at a rally and service in the Old Chapel Baptist Church Committee of DeKalb County. The minister compared Moses with Booker Washington, Frederick Douglass and other lamented Negro leaders, and stated that after Moses had fallen how Joshua took up the mantle and carried on. He likened the latter to Walter White, Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, Philip Randolph, and others, who are having the leading roles today in emancipating their people.

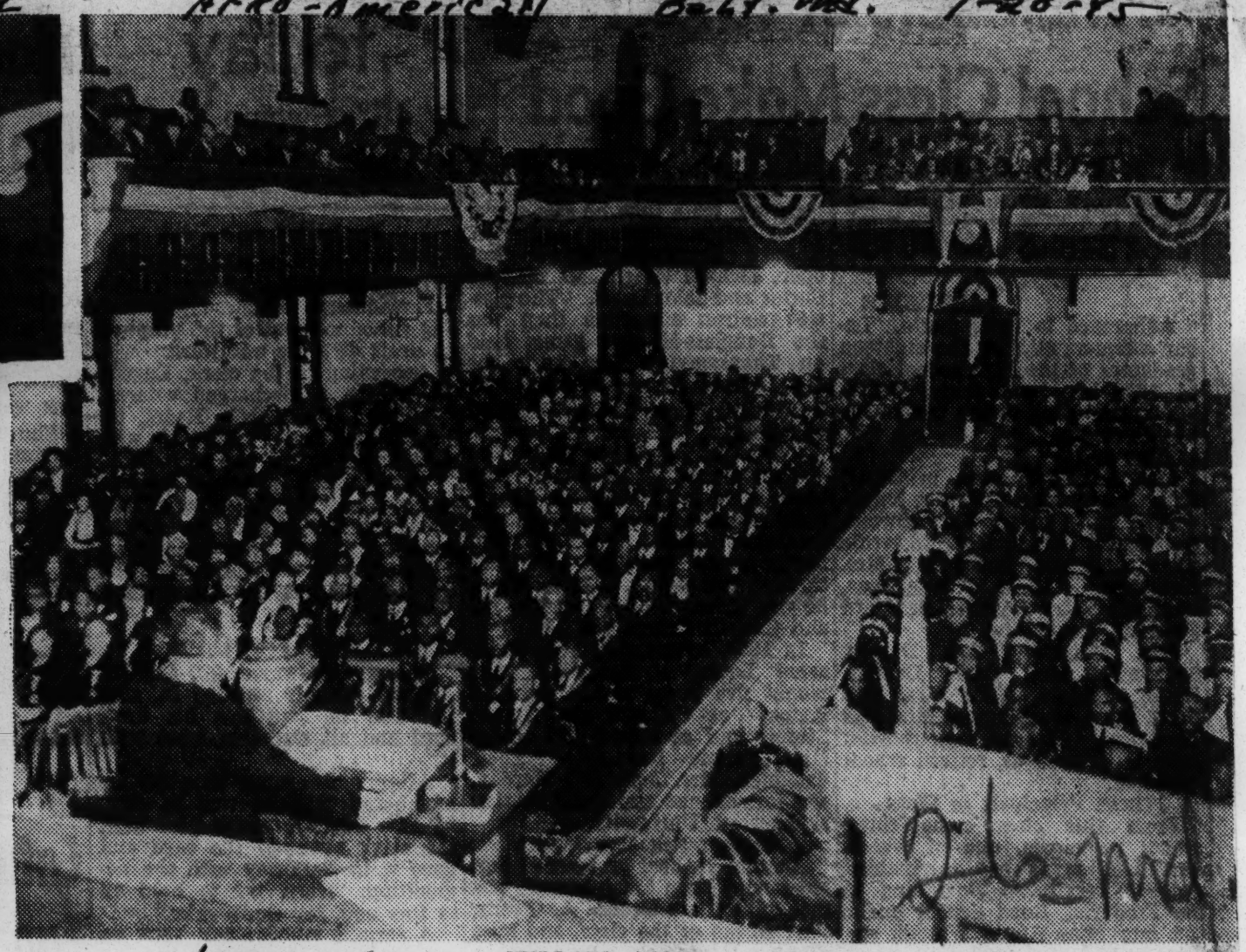
Highlights of Emancipation Proclamation Celebration in Baltimore Sunday

AFRO-American Balt. Md. 1-20-45

DR. MORDECAI JOHNSON

"Lincoln freed three and one-half million Southern whites with the signing of the proclamation," Dr. Mordecai Johnson, president of Howard University, declared at Bethel AME Church Sunday during the Emancipation Proclamation celebration in Baltimore.

AFRO-American Balt. Md. 1-20-45



1-20-45

WILLARD ALLEN

Here is part of the crowd of 900 persons attending the Emancipation Proclamation celebration Sunday, shown in the background as Dr. Willard W. Allen, grand master of Masons, presided. A roster of prominent speakers, including Governor Herbert R. O'Conor, took part on the program. Paraphrasing Lincoln's statement, the governor declared, "the world cannot live half free and half slave."

Howard Prexy Says South Must Become Democratic

Afro-American Balt, Md.

1-20-45

1-20-45

BULLETIN

Dr. Mordecai Johnson's speech was interrupted when Bishop M. H. Davis and Josiah F. Henry, Jr., escorted Gov. Herbert R. O'Conor to the speakers' platform and introduced him to audience.

BALTIMORE—Predicting that within less than a generation, Southern States will have removed ballot restrictions, have a productive economic program, and a decent educational system, Dr. Mordecai Johnson, president of Howard University, said that they have got to do it.

Dr. Johnson was speaking at Bethel AME Church Sunday before more than 900 persons at the eighty-second anniversary celebration of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. He spoke one hour and twenty minutes.

Poor Whites Hurt, Too

He pointed out that it is an illusion to believe that colored can be denied jobs, an education and political rights without the hurting of anyone else.

Poor whites get sucked into the same category, he said, and added that there are five million of them in the South now in economic bondage.

1-20-45

"When Lincoln freed the slaves, he freed three and a half million poor whites and paved the way for the greatest producing nation in the world," Dr. Johnson stated.

"There is not one objective that we have for ourselves that would not help the South and the nation as well," the Howard president declared, and pointed out that where colored people are disfranchised, whites are, too.

Democracy Untried in South

He emphasized that democracy has never been tried or experienced in places like Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, and some of the other Southern States, but stated that it would have to be tried or God would take his blessings from it.

Dr. Johnson said that colored people want jobs, in proportion to their ability; a decent educational system and the right to exercise the ballot.

1-20-45

The speaker was introduced by Dr. D. O. W. Holmes, president of Morgan State College, who praised him for his progressive program at Howard University.

Mayor, Governor Speak

...r Theodore R. McKeldin, ... the group, declared that ...ave got to bring democra... ...y to all of our people." He also pointed out that unless we kill the germs that breed new wars, there will not be a peace.

Governor Herbert O'Conor expressed the hope that the boys in service will come back to a nation where there is a brotherhood of man.

Stating that his current budget proposals would call for an increased appropriation for all institutions, including colored ones, he said that better equipped people would be more able to meet problems and take their regular place in life.

Dr. Willard W. Allen presided at the celebration which was sponsored by the United Grand Lodge of Masons of Maryland.

The Rev. Simon Williamson gave the invocation while the Emancipation Proclamation was read by Elmer A. Henderson, director of colored schools. Josiah F. Henry, Jr., read the announcements. Bishop M. H. Davis said the benediction.

View of the speaker's platform, also [illegible] addressing the audience. It is devoted [illegible] for all people, pointing out that, unless [illegible] all the germs that breed new wars [illegible]

1-20-45

6-1945

Gov. Arnall Lauds Nat'l Freedom Day

Atlanta World Ga.

PHILADELPHIA— (ANP)— Gov. Ellis Arnall, who engineered the Georgia legislation to repeal the poll tax law, has written his congratulations upon the success of National Freedom day held here February 1. He also promised to have Georgia represented at the celebration of the signing of the Emancipation declaration on its next anniversary, February 1 1946.

"The people of Georgia are proud that you are doing so well in Pennsylvania," Governor Arnall declared referring to Maj. R. R. Wright Sr., president of the National Freedom Day Association.

3-11-45

Other congratulations poured in from all sections of the country. From a representative from China came a congratulation which was impressed with the fine set of representative men and women who had come from many states of the union to that hallowed "place" the Liberty Bell rests in Philadelphia.

3-10-45

Another prominent [illegible] West Virginia [illegible] both of [illegible] [illegible]

National rreedom Day

"Freedom" Fete In Union Square

Amsterdam News
New York

An Emancipation Day celebration at the statue of Abraham Lincoln on Union Square was held Sunday afternoon by the Lincoln Universal Christian Democracy League, it was announced by Mrs. Elinor T. Johnson, president.

The national anthem was sung by Mrs. Alta Brown who also sang the Negro National Anthem. Lt. Alvin T. Wilkes representing Col. W. Wood[illegible] of Chisum of the 369th Infantry presided, while Capt. [illegible] Quander of the 15th Regiment paid tribute to Lincoln's Gettysburg Day address.

Robert Smalls, Civil War hero of Beaufort, South Carolina, was read by Captain Phillip Reed. Two Boy Scouts and Anna Belle Marble, financial secretary, held evergreen wreaths with 81 flags, representing years of the race's freedom in America. They were placed by the Boy Scouts at the foot of the statue.

Lt. Wilkes gave glowing praise of the rendition of the anthem by Mrs. Brown. Chaplain B. Jackson in the invocation declared that America might well follow Lincoln's democracy.

The celebration closed with the blowing of taps.

At Liberty Shrine

Freedom Day Observed by Both Races

Gettysburg Times
Philadelphia, Pa.
2-9-46

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—Gathered around the Liberty Bell in Independence Hall, hundreds of Negroes and white people gazed at the historic symbol of liberty which even in silence tells of the great struggles against wrong.

The throng that jammed Independence Hall Friday at noon made the annual pilgrimage to the shrine in observance of the fifth annual National Freedom Day, which started its activities in the same place where American freedom was born.

The principal speaker for the ceremonies at the bell was Bishop R. R. Wright Jr., son of Major R. R. Wright, founder and president of the National Freedom Day Association. Bishop Wright told his listeners that the Negro was standing on the threshhold of a new freedom . . . an economic freedom which gives the Negro an individuality of expression and the right to do what he chooses as a full-fledged citizen of the United States.

LAYS WREATH

Highlighting the ceremony at the Liberty Bell was the laying of the wreath at the shrine by Major Wright in commemoration of the soldiers and sailors of all races who died for the preservation of

NEGRO DELEGATE OUT

The New York Times

Boston Communist Editor Heads Tobin Request to Withdraw

New York, N.Y.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BOSTON, Jan. 14—William Harrison, Negro member of the Board of the Communist party of Massachusetts, withdrew today as a delegate to the national Freedom Day celebration in Philadelphia at the request of Governor Tobin. The Governor said he was unaware of Mr. Harrison's Communist affiliation when he made the appointment.

Mr. Harrison, who is editor of The Boston Chronicle, a weekly Negro newspaper, declined to comment on his withdrawal. He said any statements would have to come from the Governor.

He was graduated with honors from Harvard in 1929 and was a research student at Cambridge University in England in 1935. He was a vice president of the former Communist Political Association of Massachusetts.

Governor Tobin immediately named Maj. Stephen Douglas, head of the printing division of the Boston Postoffice, in Mr. Harrison's place. The other delegate is Lieut. Clayton Pluff of Greenfield, Mass., an Army Air Force pilot who lost an arm in Europe.

Freedom Day Hailed in Philadelphia

More than 10,000 persons, including delegates from 31 States joined in the observance of National Freedom Day Feb. 1 in Philadelphia. As part of the ceremonies, a wreath was placed on the Liberty Bell at Independence Hall. Left to right are Willard S. Campbell, as impersonator of Abraham Lincoln, Mrs. Richard R. Wright, Sr., president of the Citizens and Southern Bank, Philadelphia, and Bishop R. R. Wright Jr. of the AME Church.

"Freedom" Rally Attracts 10,000

Baltimore American

PHILADELPHIA

Nearly 10,000 people gathered Friday night in Convention Hall to witness the final meeting of National Freedom Day, celebrating the 81st anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment.

The speakers, ranging from Gov. Edward Martin through the educators to the religious leaders, including the dramatic appearance of the seldom seen leader of the peace movement, Father Divine, lauded the progress of colored people, urged them on to greater achievement, and castigated the obstruction of the FEPC bill in Congress.

Celebration Begins Thursday

The Convention Hall meeting was the climax of several meetings which began Thursday night at the Quaker City Elks Lodge with a business session, presided over by W. H. Fearonce, president of Fearonce Beauty Products.

The first Friday morning session in historic Congress Hall where George Washington was inaugurated in 1789, presented such outstanding religious leaders as AME Bishop A. J. Allen, of the West Indies; the Rev. Marshall L. Shepard, U.S. Recorder of Deeds and pastor of Mt. Olivet Tabernacle Baptist Church; the Rev. C. C. Adams, secretary of Baptist foreign missions, and Dr. Wendell C. Somerville, executive secretary, Lott Carey Baptist Convention, Washington, D.C.

The outstanding layman at this session was Dr. H. L. Dickason, president of Bluefield State College, W.Va., who spoke on "Education of the GI's—Their Possibilities for Education."

At a noon-day session in Independence Hall, around the Liberty Bell, Dr. John W. Davis, president of Virginia State College, presided, while Bishop R. R. Wright, Jr., delivered the principal address, in which he looked forward to the day "when education would take the position that all men belong to one humanity, one race and one world."

Major Wright Founder

Major R. R. Wright, 94-year-old president of the Citizens and Southern Bank, 19th and South Streets, was chairman of the National Freedom Day program, a celebration which he founded five years ago. He was present, and participated, in all the sessions.

In his speech, Gov. Martin, who followed Mayor Bernard Samuel on the program, emphasized that colored people should strive to maintain independence.

"No law, no amendment, no document can transform an oppressed people overnight into states of Utopia. The people so set free must use their freedom. By their own effort and hard work they must lift themselves up and earn greatness," he said.

He explained that a law can only "guarantee" opportunity. The government "cannot give clothing or shelter or food," he declared.

"Self support means self reliance. Self reliance is the keystone of freedom. With self-support came the boundless opportunities of advancement and betterment and achievement everywhere.

"When a government gives more than the right and guarantee to liberty, opportunity and pursuit of happiness, it must make its people dependent. When they lose their independence, and become dependent, they lose, at the same time, a measure of their freedom."

Senator Myers Speaks

Mayor Samuel praised colored people for their progress. U.S. Senator Francis Myers (D., Pa.) was loudly applauded and cheered when he said:

"The security that is in an FEPC law is necessary for the exercise of the Bill of Rights. The fair employment bill now before Congress is not perfect, but is the most near-perfect instrument we can have which will advance and secure peace.

"The savagery with which the bill is now being denounced on the floor of Congress is equaled only by the profound ignorance of those who are denouncing it."

Father Divine Spectacular

The most spectacular appearance of the evening meeting was made by Father Divine, who was accompanied by a large number of his adherents, including his interracial Rose Bud Chorus, numbering approximately 300 voices.

Short, bald, well-dressed and with a trace of a Southern accent it was several minutes before he could speak, because of the din of applause that greeted him.

In a tenorish voice that broke occasionally he said:

"We believe in bringing into actuality our religious teachings, in living the Declaration of Independence individually.

Picnics were held to Knoxville and East Tennessee this year in several Negro communities and a parade was staged at noon

Knoxville Journal
1946

Park Open To Negroes

Chilhowee Park will be opened

Emancipation Day Observed at Thomasville

June 1 Emancipation Day was quietly observed here Wednesday, which is normally a half-day for most business houses, and Thomasville Negroes have as usual this year. It fell on May 20 as far as Atlanta to take part in the Emancipation Day celebration at Thomasville's May 20 Association voted to close at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday for the Merchants' Day Chorus, the Lincoln University Quartet and a come from as far as Teachers' College.

THOMASTON, June 1—Emancipation Day, May 20, was quietly observed here Wednesday, which is normally a half-day for most business houses, and Thomasville Negroes have as usual this year. It fell on May 20 as far as Atlanta to take part in the Emancipation Day celebration at Thomasville's May 20 Association voted to close at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday for the Merchants' Day Chorus, the Lincoln University Quartet and a come from as far as Teachers' College.

In years past Negro

Dr. J. H. Presnell, leading Negro citizen, said all proceeds from rides and concessions will be given to Knoxville College for repairs and improvements to the building.

Use of the park was made available by the City Welfare Department, Presnell said.

Wright Ready for Celebration

Freedom Day Victory Fete Draws Response

PHILADELPHIA—Several Governors have responded to the request of Maj. R. R. Wright Sr. to send delegates to the victory celebration of the National Freedom Day Association here Jan. 31-Feb. 1. Major Wright is founder and president of the association. Responding Governors and their letters follow:

Dear Major Wright:

You have my very best wishes for a most successful meeting. I think it is a fine thing that on National Freedom Day you undertake to bring about the citizens of this country affected by the Thirteenth Amendment to the U. S. Constitution a full realization of their potentialities and obligations as citizens.

With every good wish and the compliments of the season, I am

Sincerely yours,
ELLIS ARNALL,
Governor of Georgia.

Dear Major Wright:

We are looking up two citizens of the State of Connecticut to represent the State at the National Freedom Day celebration. I will let you know as soon as we have these names.

Very truly yours,
RAYMOND E. BALDWIN,
Governor of Connecticut.

Dear Mr. Wright:

I have your letter this morning advising that National Freedom Day will be celebrated on Thursday, Jan. 31, 1946, and Feb. 1, 1946. You may be sure that I am pleased to cooperate as I have in the past because I feel that the movement which you are sponsoring is of such incalculable good that it gives great impetus to the most desirable race relations.

We have been fortunate as to have two able representatives, Messrs. Willard W. Allen and Josiah F. Henry Jr., and I would like very much to designate them, again this year. Both of them, incidentally, hold important positions in our State administration and, for that reason, I feel would very capably represent the citizenry on the occasion of your meeting.

With compliments of the season, I am

Sincerely yours,
HERBERT R. O'CONOR,
Governor of Maryland.

Dear Sir:

This is to advise that pursuant to your request of the tenth instant, I am again appointing Mrs. Albert B. Marshall, 69 West Silver Street, Butte, Mon., and Mrs. Edward Johnson, 102 South Beattie Street, Helena, Mon., to represent this State on the occasion of the celebration of National Freedom Day in Philadelphia.

Cordially yours,
SAM C. FORD,
Governor of Montana.

Dear Major:

Your letter of Dec. 17 is acknowledged.

We are asking Dr. Horace C. Scott and Hon. David W. Harris to act as delegates to your National Freedom Day Convention.

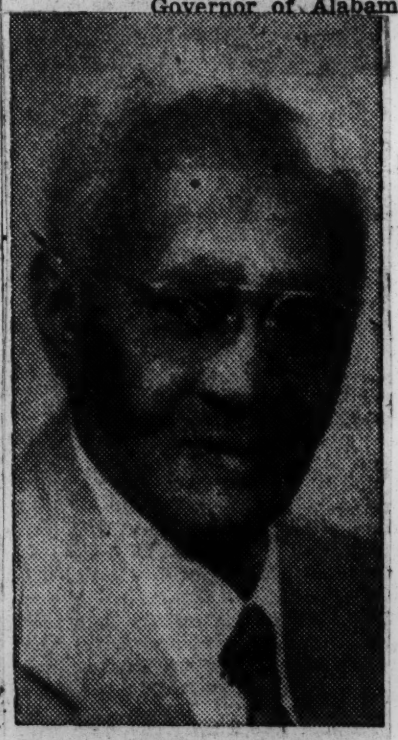
Kind personal regards.

Very sincerely,
EDWARD MARTIN,
Governor of Pennsylvania.

Dear Sir:

I received your letter with reference to National Freedom Day. For your information, I am again naming Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala., as our delegate. If I name any other delegate to go, I will advise you at a later date.

Yours very truly,
CHAUNCEY SPARKS,
Governor of Alabama



AWAITS CELEBRATION—Maj. R. R. Wright Sr., founder and president of the National Freedom Day Association, is making final plans for the victory celebration of the National Freedom Day Association in Philadelphia, Jan. 31-Feb. 1.

Petition Urges Ban on Freedom

NEW YORK—"Repeal and nullification" of the Emancipation Proclamation of Jan. 1, 1863, and the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments of the Constitution, are being urged in Congress in a petition mailed to the AFRO from New York City on Jan. 24.

The reactionary document was mailed to this newspaper in an envelope with no return address, no name of a sponsoring organization, and without any signatures attached thereto.

The petition which, apparently, is being circulated on a nation-wide basis, with a direct appeal to Southerners, said the Proclamations and Amendments should be repealed and nullified, because:

Says Peace Hampered

"More than 80 years of unhappy experience have demonstrated that they have failed to provide and maintain, as was hoped by their proponents, a reasonable degree of peace, justice and good will between the white and colored peoples of the country;

"There is no present evidence that relations between the two races will improve hereafter, but every reason to believe that they will worsen, as they are even now worsening;

Calls for Amendment

"It would clear off the existing misunderstanding and enmity and open the way for a new and more rational attack upon the problem."

The unnamed sponsor or sponsors of the petition want the Proclamation repealed and nullified by Joint Resolution in Congress and would have the Amendments repealed and nullified by submitting to the States an Amendment to the Constitution.

Knoxville, Tenn. Journal
Aug. 4, 1946

Negro Field Day Is Booked For Chilhowee On Thursday

As a feature of the Emancipation Day celebration to be held at Chilhowee Park Thursday will be a program of field events sponsored by The Journal and the city recreation bureau.

The program will start at 3 o'clock. After the contests free rides will be given the representatives of the city's seven Negro playgrounds.

Claude A. Walker, supervisor of Negro activities for the recreation bureau, last night announced the following times and events:

Crab race for midgets, 3; head balance relay for B girls, 3; head balance relay for A girls, 3; three-legged race for junior boys, 3; sore-toe relay for junior boys, 3; obstacle race for intermediate boys, 3:30; 50-yard das for midget boys, 4.

50-yard race for junior boys, 4; 50-yard dash for B girls, 4:15; 50-yard dash for A girls, 4:15; 100-yard dash for intermediate boys, 4:30.

The following officials have been appointed: Claude Walker, director; Mary Ann Brown, activity clerk; Winiford Chesnut, Izella Kimbrough, Margaret Hannum, Betty Arnold, Loucinda McMahan, Cecil Gross, G. H. Lennon, and Daniel Howard, leaders.

Annual Negro Parade Set for New Year's

Negro veterans, Boy and Girl Scouts and school children will take part in the annual parade and celebration of the Emancipation association on New Year's Day.

Starting at Harmon field, the parade will go through Line, King, Broad, Mary and Morris streets to Morris Brown Methodist Episcopal church. Dr. W. D. Fester will serve as marshal and Dr. L. L. Farmer will deliver the principal address. The program at the church will be in charge of the Interdenominational Ministers Union of Charleston and Charleston county. William H. Simmons is president of the Emancipation association and V. M. Lewis is secretary.

Jan. 1 --- A Day the Negro People Remember

By EUGENE GORDON

The Negro people have reason to remember Jan. 1 above all other dates.

Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was published Jan. 1, 1863. The first issue of William Lloyd Garrison's **The Liberator** came out on Jan. 1, 1831. Haiti issued its declaration of independence Jan. 1, 1804.

Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation inspired abolitionists with new courage and it won recruits for the Union army. It applied, however, to some parts of the country and not to others.

But, as Dr. W. E. B. DuBois points out in "Black Folk, Then and Now," the Proclamation caused "an increasingly purposeful general strike against slavery. Lincoln welcomed it and encouraged it, once he realized that even the idle presence of the Negroes was so much strength drawn from the Confederacy."

The Emancipation Proclamation resulted not only in paralyzing Southern economy; it stopped many Northerners from prating about the "white man's" war for the civil war did not fall into its real stride until 26 days after the Emancipation Proclamation. The Secretary of War, on that date, yielding to the insistence of Frederick Douglass and others, authorized the Governor of Massachusetts to raise two regiments of Negro troops.

The Union army in the end had 187,000 Negroes fighting against slavery. Seventy thousand were killed and wounded. Thus the Emancipation Proclamation as a war measure to break the Confederacy and preserve the Union was successful. As a device actually to free the slaves the Proclamation became fully effective only after Lee surrendered and the Confederacy was defeated.

William Lloyd Garrison's **The Liberator** started without money or one single subscriber on Jan. 1 1831. With its motto "Our country the world—our countrymen are all mankind," **The Liberator** was not only among the forces which led to the Emancipation Proclamation, but it lived to record that event and to publish the story of an amendment to the Constitution forever prohibiting slavery.

Haiti's successful revolution against the mother country, France, ending in a declaration of independence on Jan. 1, 1804, inspired uprisings among fellow slaves in this country, thus weakening the power of the slaveholder and preparing the way for his eventual defeat.

Haitian patriots, having won their freedom, came and helped America free herself of British tyranny, in the war of 1812.

Jan. 1, 1945, records advances which the peoples of the world have made against their most bestial enemy, fascism. The Negro was among those peoples. Experience gained in that fight will help him in the next phase of his struggle.

Canada Observes Emancipation Day

WINDSOR, Ont.—Approximately 35,000 Americans and Canadians of both races jammed Jackson Park on Sunday for the Emancipation celebration, which marked the 114th anniversary of the signing of a decree outlawing slavery in the British possessions by Queen Elizabeth.

The Rev. Robert L. Bradby of Detroit was the main speaker. Misses Dorine Simmons, Betty Henson and Don L. Broach, all of Detroit, won the first, second and third beauty prizes and were crowned "Miss International Sepia Beauties."

At the concession stands, prices on food and cold drinks exceeded those in the American black market. Selling rapidly, drinks were 30 cents a bottle, ham sandwiches were 50 cents, half fried chicken, $1.25, and ice cream, 15 cents a scoop.

Dr. DuBois Still In Front Ranks At 78

William Edward Burkhardt DuBois distinguished American scholar, was honored by wide circles in his own country and abroad on the occasion of his 78th birthday, Feb. 23, 1946.

Noteworthy representative of an oppressed people, Dr. DuBois is respected in many parts of the world because of his contribution towards the freedom of the oppressed everywhere. He is, at the sober age of nearly four score years, still the militant fighter and learned spokesman for Negro rights. He has not retired nor been forced to the sideline, but is actively bearing forward the torch of battle.

Firm, indomitable character and honesty aided Dr. DuBois in his opposition to the social and political system of his early life. He still fights poverty, ignorance, semi-slavery, exploitation and national oppression bred by capitalism. His life is the heroic tragedy of the flower of Negro intellectuals, and reflects the tragedy of all Negroes.

Dr. DuBois was born at Great Barrington, Mass., and was graduated from high school there. He entered Fisk University at Nashville, Tenn., and was graduated from that institution. He then entered Harvard University and studied under such scholars as William James, Child, Palmer, Royce, Santayana, Norton, Winsor, Trowbridge, Goodwin and Taussig. Charles William Eliot was president of Harvard at that time. Two ex-presidents of Harvard, Oliver Wendell Holmes and James Russell Lowell were still alive and exerting their influence on the intellectual life of the nation. DuBois was graduated from Harvard in the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy. He received a two-year fellowship at the University of Berlin.

Dr. DuBois soon found himself in opposition to this bourgeois training and encirclement. He began to fight the society that brutalized the underprivileged and held back progress. Throughout his life he has been called a "dangerous man" by the minons of capitalist society because those who give utterances to opinions of an oppositional character are suspected and intimidated. They have attempted again and again to beat him down. But his head has never been bowed.

There have been gaps and some confusion in his understanding of the full nature of the struggle of the oppressed classes against the bourgeoisie because "it is impossible to live in society and yet be free from it." And as Dr. DuBois himself says of this influence in the intellectual surroundings of Harvard: "Harvard was a child of its era. The intellectual freedom and flowering of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries were yielding to the deadening economic pressure which made Harvard rich and reactionary."

And, he says further, "Karl Marx was hardly mentioned."

Successor to Frederick Douglass, DuBois was the spiritual initiator of modern Negro revolt. He is one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and of the Pan-African Conference. He has written scores of books and tracts in behalf of Negro freedom and against imperialism. His latest book, "Color and Democracy" (1945) proves that the world faces disaster with half of it enslaved, that as long as there are colonies there will be colonial revolts, that the old imperialist "solution" will not guarantee post-war peace.

A few weeks ago Dr. DuBois, together with a number of intellectuals and professionals, appeared on the picket line in New York and spoke in behalf of the striking workers. The entire press, Negro and white, gave prominent notice to his action. Some paper noted it with a cynical jibe, others hailed it as a liberal step. But none as yet have delved deeply into the matter. The strike wave of American workers reflects the sharpening class struggle of the times. All sections of the population — scientists, intellectuals and professionals, are choosing sides. By drawing himself closer to the struggles of the proletariat Dr. DuBois adds strength to the Negro people's movement and gains greater freedom from the influences of the bourgeoisie.

This struggle particularly affects the Negro people. Their fight for life lies in alliance with labor. Dr. DuBois' step was logical. It was interpretative of the laws of developing society. As a course if energetically carried forward in all organizations of the Negro people will advance still further their movement for freedom.

Happy birthday and many more years of useful service and creative labor for William Edward Burghardt DuBois on the occasion of his 78th birthday. — James W. Ford, New York City.

Biographies of Winners of First Willkie Awards For Journalism

WASHINGTON, D. C., (NNPA)—Miss Almena Davis, the 27-year old editor and co-founder of the Los Angeles Tribune, who won the first prize of the Wendell Willkie Awards for Negro Journalism, was reared in Chicago.

Her career in the newspaper field began at an early age. She says she can remember that she and her sister as children made up and sold in their neighborhood a newspaper of their own.

From Chicago Miss Davis moved to Los Angeles where she attended Los Angeles City College while working on the Los Angeles Eagle where she was employed for seven years.

BOUGHT PAPER FOR $50

The Los Angeles Tribune, a tabloid, is five years old and was originally a church newspaper which Miss Davis said she bought for fifty dollars. Lucius Lomax, publisher of this paper, joined the staff two months after its purchase and has been with the Tribune since that time.

Miss Davis, a divorcee, is the proud mother of a fifteen month old baby girl. Besides being a mother and editor of a newspaper, this ambitious young woman does much fiction writing on the side. A play, a novel, neither so-far published, and short stories have been written by her and it is her desire to devote more time and study to this type of writing in the future.

JOHN T. YOUNG 3rd

The co-winner of the second Willkie Award, John T. Young 3rd, was born on Jan. 11, 1915, in Pine Bluff, Ark. He is a legal resident of Nashville, Tenn. ,where he votes. He attended Merrill High School at Pine Bluff and graduated from Morehouse in Atlanta, Ga., in 1936.

During his college days his extra curricular activities embraced the Little Theater, two years in the Atlanta University Summer Theater, All-American football player, debating team, and writing for the college paper, the Maroon Tiger.

After his graduation, Mr. Young was director of athletics at Jackson College, Jackson, Miss., and assistant football coach at Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn.

He is a veteran of World War II with 16 months of service to his credit. Two years were spent at Tuskegee Institute as a flight instructor of cadets and he has 1900 hours of flying time.

He spent considerable time in free lance writing and "got a pile of rejection slips." He joined the Pittsburgh (Pa.) Courier in 1944 but had previously had articles published under another name.

The tour during which he gathered information for his prize-winning series of articles began in Richmond, Va., in Nov. 1944, and ended in Louisville, Ky., in April, 1945. He covered 13 states during the tour. He is the Washington Correspondent for the Pittsburgh Courier.

P. BERNARD YOUNG Jr.

The other co-winner of the second Willkie Award, P. Bernard Young Jr., is editor-in-chief of the Journal and Guide and vice-president-secretary of its publishing corporation.

A graduate of Hampton Institute and Ohio State University school of journalism, he joined the Guide staff full time in June, 1929, and in a few years became managing editor. In 1943 he was made editor-in-chief.

At Hampton he was a member of the staff of the Hampton Script, student publication; athletic reporter for the campus press service; and winner of the Adam Essay Contest first prize in his senior year.

At Ohio State he was chosen managing editor in his senior year of the campus daily newspaper, the Ohio State Lantern, and received the scholarship award and gold key presented for high scholarship by Sigma Delta Chi Fraternity, honorary professional journalistic society.

For several years, beginning in 1929, he was editor of The Sphinx, official publication of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

During October, 1944, and February, 1945, he made a tour covering over 30,000 miles in West Africa as a member of a commission surveying social, political, and economic conditions in French and British colonies, and in Liberia, at the instance of the late President F. D. Roosevelt.

In the current (March) issue of Color, a newspicture magazine, Mr. Young is among a list of ten outstanding newsmen chosen by a national poll.

Jack Johnson, Former Boxing Champ, Killed

Automobile Crash Fatal to Negro Star

Raleigh, N. C., June 10 (AP)—Jack Johnson, first Negro ever to become heavyweight boxing champion of the world, died at Saint Agnes Hospital here today following an automobile accident early this afternoon near Franklinton.

Dr. W. D. Allison said that Johnson, who was 68 years old, died of internal injuries and shock.

Fred L. Scott, a Negro companion, said he was accompanying the former champion to New York from Texas, where Johnson recently had concluded a personal appearance tour.

HITS POLE

As the heavy automobile approached the city limits of Franklinton, which is about 20 miles north of Raleigh on iHghway U. S. No. one, Scott said that Johnson apparently lost control of the car on a curve. The car went off the road and crashed into a telephone pole, hitting on the left side when Johnson was sitting.

Both Johnson and Scott were thrown out of the car, which was demolished. The two were rushsd to Saint Agnes Hospital here where Johnson died at 6:10 p.m. Scott was treated for minor injuries and released from the hospital.

TOOK TITLE

Johnson's wife, Mrs. Irene Johnson, has been notified of her husband's death and is coming to Raleigh, Scott said. Funeral arrangements have not been made. But Scott said he thought they would be held either in New York or Chicago.

Johnson, who was christened John Arthur Johnson and was know to his pals at "Li'l Artha," won the title when he stopped Tommy Burns of Canada in 14 rounds at Sidney, Austraila, Dec. 26, 1908, and lost it to Jess Willard at Havana, Cuba, April 16, 1915.

His ring career last 29 years and covered 109 major fights and exhibitions—two of which probably never will be forgotten.

DEFENSIVE

His defense of the championship against Jim Jeffries at Reno, Nev., July 4, 1910, was the original "Battle Of The Century" and his scrap with Willard will be argued as long as men battle each other in the ring.

A fine defensive boxer, Johnson was classified by many experts as one of the greatest fighters in ring history.

His career ended in 1928. During that time he won 69 of his 80 decision bouts and fought in 2[illegible] exhibitions, no-decision and bouts which ended in a draw.

Johnson had reached his peak when he met Burns for the title. The fight was held at Rushcutter's Bay, just outside Sidney and the big Negro gave Burns such a sound beating that he was declared the winner on a technical knockout after police raided the fight in the 14th round.

ABOUT FOLKS YOU KNOW

Few people recall it, but Spurgeon Burke, who manages the Howe and Carver Halls, Washington's war workers' dormitories, was once one of the ace officials

How Peddler Overton Rose to Dizzy Heights

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md. Sat. 7-13-46

Story of a One-Time National Bank President Who Got His Start by Making Baking Powder

ANTHONY OVERTON

By JOHN JASPER

Anthony Overton, one-time Chicago national bank president, started out by manufacturing baking powder, extracts and starch.

He sold groceries during the day time and in a back room of the store manufactured his products.

Soon he left the grocery business to others and began travelling all over the South selling his own goods. He multiplied his own ability to reach customers by employing a corps of salesmen, and in order to give them a diversity of products, he added toilet preparations to his miscellaneous list.

He was among the first to discover that the standard toilet articles made for white people did not harmonize with colored skins, and he began to turn out his own specialties, especially face powder. The Overton High Brown products achieved popularity all over the country.

Enters Banking

Mr. Overton's experiences in manufacturing salesmanship led him into banking.

As a colored merchant he found it difficult to obtain capital and credit. He organized his own bank in order to help him finance his own business and as a service to others.

He started the Douglass National Bank in 1922 with a capital of $170,000 and bank deposits of $56,000. For 10 years it was a landmark in Chicago.

It was the second national bank among colored people, a Federal depository and an institution able to print its own Government money. The first national bank was the Boley (Okla.) National Bank.

High Tide in 1929

At the bank's high tide in 1929, Chicagoans deposited one and a half million dollars in Overton's national bank and the bank in return lent out one million dollars on real estate mortgages and other securities.

Then came the depression.

Between 1929 and 19[illegible]0 white banks in Chicago fail[illegible] There was general hysteria. The Douglass National Bank suffered three runs before it finally failed. Although it successfully weathered these runs, the doors of the institution were finally closed in 1932.

Overton and other officials gave up their salaries and the Reconstruction Finance Company came to their aid with a loan of $200,000, but it was not enough.

How the Bank Failed

Too much of the bank's assets were invested in real estate and other loans which could not be easily liquidated due to the depression.

The National Baptist Convention borrowed $11,000 and by scraping the bottom could repay only $7,000.

The Knights of Pythias had a loan of $22,800 on which it paid only $2,300. The Chicago AME Conference owed $18,000.

The failure of the bank carried down with it the Victory Life Insurance Company which Mr. Overton headed also, and which he built into an organization which invested a half million dollars in mortgages on colored homes.

Native of Louisiana

Mr. Overton was born in Monroe, La. His father ran a little store and reared him behind the counter, drilling into him the ideals of economy and industry.

He was sent to the University of Kansas, graduated in law and after practicing for a few months decided that storekeeping was his best love.

Careful, Thrifty Man

In all of his many ventures Anthony Overton was careful thrifty and religious. He was a deacon of his church, father of four children and grandfather of 15 or more.

His business success did not turn his head and his failures never embittered him. For looking back to his days when he peddled baking powder in the South, this one time Louisiana baking soda salesman had come a long way.

AFRO's Book Reviewer Himself Noted Author

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md.

Sat. 6-29-46

AFRO readers who, for one reason or another, find it difficult, if not impossible, to keep up with many new books, will be happy to know that J. Saunders Redding, whose column, "A Second Look," has appeared in this paper for several years, is now devoting his column to book reviews.

Mr. Redding, professor of creative literature at Hampton Institute and an author in his own right ("No Day of Triumph," and "To Make a Poet Black), is well qualified for his new task.

Won Prize Award

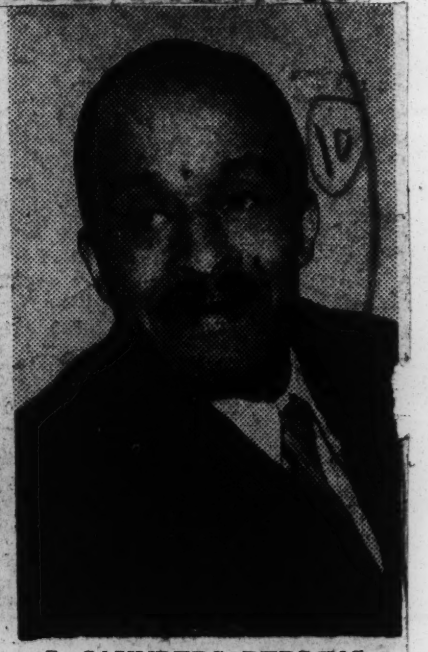
His "No Day of Triumph" won the 1943 Mayflower Cup awarded by the Mayflower Society for the best book written by a resident of North Carolina.

Prof. Redding is not only a brilliant writer, but also has traveled extensively studying problems affecting the social and economic life of colored Americans.

Native of Delaware

A native of Wilmington, Del., Mr. Redding attended Lincoln (Pa.) University and Brown University from which he received the Master of Arts and Ph.D. degrees. He has taught at Elizabeth City (N.C.) State Teachers' College and is presently teaching at Hampton.

His keen analysis of and comments on current books are on a par with those of any book reviewer inthe nation. His reviews will appear exclusively in the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers.



J. SAUNDERS REDDING

17 1947

The Deep South Speaks

The views expressed in this column do not necessarily express the editorial opinion of The Louisiana Weekly.

By Robert Durr
for the NNPA News Service
Louisiana Weekly
Freedom Day
New Orleans, La.

Delegates representing the governors of thirty-seven states including Mrs. L. S. Gaillard and myself representing Governor James E. Folsom of Alabama, assembled in Congress Hall and Independence Hall, Philadelphia, February 1 and 2, to celebrate National Freedom Day commemorating adoption of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States which prohibited slavery in this country.

Speaking at Independence Hall, Senator Francis J. Myers, Democrat, Pennsylvania, declared that a retrogression from the moral principles of the Thirteenth Amendment had been in a large measure responsible for catastrophic wars. "It is true that the last vestige of slavery has disappeared in America, but one can yet detect the rumblings of latent forces which would subjugate whole classes of people because of their race, color or creed," the Senator declared. "The people who encourage them are the shame of the nation—the organizations which foster them must be erased if freedom is to forge ahead." Sat. 2-15-47

The second speaker at Independence Hall was Representative Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Democrat, New York. He pointed out that freedom in America is only the right and the privilege to fight for freedom. "We of this generation should be happy in the fact that freedom has not been handed to us, but rather that whatever freedom we shall enjoy shall be freedom that we must obtain for ourselves," he said. "The war is over, but the fight to live has just begun," Powell added. "We can not indulge in the luxury of partisan politics. We must strike down divisive factors and leaders who come into our midst with age-old tactics and honeyed promises."

Colored people today "are confronted by the three evils of Talmadge, Bilbo and Communism," Lamar Perkins, New York State Assistant Attorney General, told the audience of upwards of 5,000 in the Academy of Music on Sunday night at a rally closing the two-day celebration of National Freedom Day.

A great ovation was given by the audience to Major R. R. Wright, Sr., 93-year-old banker and educator, born a slave in Georgia, who founded the annual observance of Freedom Day six years ago.

"We have much to be thankful for," Major Wright told the audience, "but we must work hard and believe in God and in ourselves if we are to succeed."

He is president of the Citizens and Southern Bank & Trust Company, of Philadelphia, which he founded in 1921.

Perkins said that "New York State led the country in having a law against racial discrimination on jobs—unless a man has the right to work, he has not the right to live."

Delegates meeting in the board of directors' room of Major Wright's bank, pledged themselves to go back to their respective states and try to get their state legislators and governors to proclaim February 1 as Freedom Day—in commemoration of the adoption of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

The theme of the National Freedom Day Celebration is the promulgation of goodwill and friendly relationship between the races and the conservation and perpetuation of freedom from economic, political and physical bondage for peoples all over the world as well as here in the United States .

Efforts will be made to have every state in the union set up Freedom Day organizations affiliated with the national organization, of which Major Wright was reelected head at the recent Philadelphia meeting, to promulgate appreciation of that freedom which was given birth to at Congress and Independence Halls in the cradle of liberty—Philadelphia.

The need is great for an organization with a program designed to combat the spread of anti-Americanisms and the acceptance of that program by sluggish and less alert-minded folk who when thrown into the throes of insecurity and persecution become fertile soil in which the seeds of communism and fascism may be sown to the detriment of the democratic way of life. Sat. 2-15-47

Mr. Perkins observed well when he stated in the course of his foreword at the Academy of Music that the promoters of communism in this country penetrate and bastardize liberal and progressive organizations, if possible. They profess to be interested in helping the common man solve his problems when, as a matter of fact, their purpose is to confuse and break down from within organizations dedicated to assisting the common man to go forward and finally our form of government to the end that communism may supplant the American way of life.

In view of the fact that the National Freedom Day Association is dedicating itself to an enlarged program of promoting the extension of democracy on a day to day educational basis, it would seem that leaders and governors of the various states and men of goodwill everywhere would count it a privilege to get behind this organization with whatever is necessary to duplicate the National Freedom Day celebration in Philadelphia in all the states of the United States as speedily as possible.

National Freedom Day Association headquarters are located at 1849 South Street, Philadelphia.

Speaking Out From The New South

Chicago Defender
By ROBERT DURR
Chicago, Ill.

Freedom Day

DELEGATES representing the governors of 37 states including Mrs. L. S. Gaillard and myself representing Gov. James E. Folsom of Alabama, assembled in Congress Hall and Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Feb. 1 and 2, to celebrate National Freedom Day commemorating adoption of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States which prohibited slavery in this country.

Speaking at Independence Hall, Sen. Francis J. Myers, Democrat, Pennsylvania, declared that a retrogression from the moral principles of the Thirteenth Amendment had been in a large measure responsible for catastrophic wars. "It is true that the last vestige of slavery has disappeared in America, but one can yet detect the rumblings of latent forces which would subjugate whole classes of people because of their race, color or creed," the Senator declared. "The people who encourage them are the shame of the nation—the organizations which foster them must be erased if freedom is to forge ahead."

The second speaker at Independence Hall was Rep. Adam Clayton Powell Jr., Democrat, New York. He pointed out that freedom in America is only the right and the privilege to fight for freedom. "We of this generation should be happy in the fact that freedom has not been handed to us, but rather that whatever freedom we shall enjoy shall be freedom that we must obtain for ourselves," he said. "The war is over, but the fight to live has just begun," Powell added. "We cannot indulge in the luxury of partisan politics. We must strike down divisive factors and leaders who come into our midst with age-old tactics and honeyed promises."

Cites Three Evils

Sat.

Colored people today "are confronted by the three evils of Talmadge, Bilbo and Communism," Lamar Perkins, New York State Assistant Attorney General, told the audience of upwards of 5,000 in the Academy of Music on Sunday night at a rally closing the two-day celebration of National Freedom Day.

A great ovation was given by the audience to Maj. R. R. Wright Sr., 93-year-old banker and educator, born a slave in Georgia, who founded the annual observance of Freedom Day six years ago.

"We have much to be thankful for," Major Wright told the audience, "but we must work hard and believe in God and in ourselves if we are to succeed."

He is president of the Citizens and Southern Bank & Trust Company of Philadelphia, which he founded in 1921.

Perkins said that "New York State led the country in having a law against racial discrimination on jobs—unless a man has the right to work, he has not the right to live."

Delegates meeting in the board of directors' room of Major Wright's bank, pledged themselves to go back to their respective states and try to get their state legislators and governors to proclaim Feb. 1 as Freedom Day—in commemoration of the adoption of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

The theme of the National Freedom Day Cele-

Halls in the cradle of
2-15-47
or an organization with a
combat the spread of anti
acceptance of that pro
less alert-minded folk who
throes of insecurity and
tile soil in which the seeds
scism may be sown to the
cratic way of life.
d well when he stated in

Anti-Americanism

bration is the promulgation of good will and
friendly relationship between the races and Independence
the conservation and perpetuation of freedom
from economic, political and physical bondage. The need is great for an
for peoples all over the world as well as here in program designed to combat
the United States. Americanisms and the
Efforts will be made to have every state in the gram by sluggish and less
union set up Freedom Day organizations af- when thrown into the
filiated with the national organization, of which persecution become fertile
Major Wright was re-elected head at the recent of communism and fascism
Philadelphia meeting, to promulgate appreciation detriment of the democratic
of that freedom which was given birth to at Con- Mr. Perkins observed well

Star-Studded Cast Has Been Selected For NAACP Drama

World Atlanta, Ga
Dec. 12-30-47

BY JOEL W. SMITH

"Freedom Is A Hard Bought Thing," a dramatic presentation will be one of the outstanding features of the annual NAACP Emancipation Day Exercises, scheduled for 12 o'clock noon, Thursday, at the Greater Wheat Street Baptist Church.

17

In breaking away from the traditional Emancipation Day address Prof. Charles L. Harper, president of the Atlanta Branch NAACP has done a remarkable job arranging a program that will be both informative and cultural.

12-30-47

The year now drawing to a close was crowded with activity on several fronts, so members of four important committees will give the general public an over-all picture of the accomplishments. Also an effort will be made to focus the attention of civic-minded Atlantans on plans for a big city-wide Registration Campaign in 1948.

STAR-STUDDED CAST

Headlining the star-studded cast for "Freedom Is A Hard Bought Thing," will be Raphael McIver, chairman of the group, who was formerly one of the stars in the University Players and has since taken a leading role in most of the worth-while plays given in Atlanta in recent years.

Then, there will be Miss Eloise Usher, director of dramatics at Spelman College and a speaker of rare attainments; Mrs. Ruth Modiste, who played in "Night Must Fall" and Bishops Candle Sticks;" Leonard Archer, director of drama, Wilberforce University; Miss Gwendolyn Thomas, who was active in the theatre at Morris Brown College and Miss Ruth L. Cornelius who has been active in journalism and dramatics.

Rounding-out the talented cast will be Ernest Tate, who has also appeared with the University Players; Brainard S. Burch, star of the Washington High School Faculty Players; and Howard Archer, who appeared in Shakespearan plays at Morehouse College and later took the leading role in the "Bishops Candle Sticks."

Sharing the spotlight with the NAACP Dramatic Club will be the Albany State College Choir, directed by Prof. James L. Elkin. This well-trained choral group will sing well known spirituals arranged by Prof. Elkins, Hall Johnson and William L. Dawson, as well as the works of Bach, Rossinni, and Handel.

Booker T. Washington

"CAST DOWN YOUR BUCKET WHEREYOU ARE"

1863 - Emancipation Progress Edition - 1948

Lincoln Clubs Mark Day Of Emancipation

The Lincoln Emancipation Clubs of South Carolina, Inc., held their annual Mancipation Day celebration at the Columbia Township auditorium yesterday afternoon. I. S. Leevy is president of the organization and explained to the gathering the purpose of the observance. The president was introduced by Dr. H. W. Baumgardner. P. M. Bowling was master of ceremonies.

N'Carolina Appoints Representative To Freedom Day Event

DURHAM, N. C.—Dr. A. L. Turner, dean of the law school at the North Carolina College here, was notified this week of his appointment by Governor R. Gregg Cherry of North Carolina to represent North Carolina at the seventh annual observance of National Freedom Day in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, January 31 and February 1.

These sessions will be held in Congress Hall where the first Congress met in 1774, in Independence Hall where the Liberty Bell is enshrined, and at the historic Academy of Music. National Freedom Day was originated to emphasize freedom for all citizens as well as the life and the hope of democracy for this country.

Dr. Turner's letter of appointment and commission from Governor Cherry were dated December 29. Another representative for North Carolina will be appointed at a later date.

Dr. Turner, who received his undergraduate and law degrees from Western Reserve University, holds the masters and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan. Before joining the North Carolina College staff as dean of the undergraduate school in 1941, he was senior attorney in the OPA and prior to that was registrar at Tuskegee Institute for 13 years.

SPIRIT OF BOOKER T. WASHINGTON LIVES ON

By Marcel Hopson

Another year has rolled filled with progress, prosperity, victories and successes, which gives us more courage to fight on for our INHERITED rights in a Democracy. Then too, taking a retrospective view over the rugged trodden paths that our past leaders blazed for the sake of surviving Humanity, we are proud to celebrate the 85th Anniversary of the Emancipation of the Negro people of America.

Though we have been criticized, ostracized, beaten, murdered, discriminated against, segregated, and denied our rights, we, the Negro people, commonly branded COMMUNIST when we fight for those rights, have come a long, long way in Education, business and other vast fields that make the true way of life the democratic way of Life, the dream that we hope some day will wholly come true, and not half true as it has and now stands.

We would do injustice if we would close this historical commemoration without paying special tribute to one of our greatest trailblazers and lovers of Humanity, Booker T. Washington, whose undying spirit still lives on in the hearts and minds of all people, especially the minorities (as we are commonly known) in America. Truly, this dynamic Alabama educator gave the South and Nation the key to the door of modern education. He also made it possible for thousands upon thousands of Negro boys and girls to learn and appreciate the "dignity of labor."

What makes the spirit of this great American leader stand out in these "trying" times is that it has planted itself into the hearts and minds of our present "true leaders" who are fighting, dying and braving the many obstacles of life to continue, complete and extend the road to success and prosperity that Booker Washington helped to construct for all men, regardless of race, creed or religion.

Scanning over the pages of "Our History of Progress," and seeing our many accomplishments in these 85 years, does not mean that we must sit back on our "basements," and lose sight on the world and say, "This is Enough," but we must fight harder and harder to complete the job that our predecessors began for "our own good" in this unfriendly, strife-filled world.

Since our commemoration of this historical event comes just after each New Year's Day, we should include in our resolutions that we must cooperate, we must put our shoulders to the wheel; we must organize for the "cause"; we must not get in the way of our fellowmen when they are trying to do something for the betterment and success of our race, and above all please don't leave these out. "I am going to do my share for the success of my race, by not betraying my "black brother," telling everything that goes on among my race to race-haters for a little "evil money," and I will not try to influence other people of my race not to help contribute to the "cause" which is success, pursuit of happiness, life and liberty.

Defense Of Emancipation Proclamation Recalled

THINKS DIFFERENTLY

CHICAGO — (ANP) — Abraham Lincoln had to defend his "radical" Emancipation proclamation, not only from the southern Confederate states but from the north, it was recalled this week as the nation took time out to observe his birthday.

Writing a letter to the Illinois convention addressed to James C. Conkling, under the date of Aug. 26, 1863, President Lincoln said:

"To be plain, you are dissatisfied with me about the Negro. Quite likely there is a difference of opinion between you and myself upon the subject. I certainly wish that all men could be free, while you, the aid of black soldiers. suppose, do not.

"You say that you will not fight to free Negroes. Some of them seem willing to fight for you; but no matter. Fight you then, exclusively to save the Union. I issued the proclamation on purpose to aid you in saving the Union. Whenever you shall have conquered all resistance to the Union, if I shall urge you to continue fighting, it will be an apt time then for you to declare you will not fight to free Negroes. Why should they do anything for us, if we will do nothing for them? If they stake their lives for us, they must be prompted by the strongest motives, even the promise of freedom. And the promise, being made, must be kept."

Freedom Day Association Gives Founder's Photo To President

Norfolk, Va. Journal + Guide

WASHINGTON, D. C. —(NNPA)—A group representing the National Freedom Day Foundation called at the White House last Thursday and presented President Truman with a portrait of the late Major R. R. Wright, the association's founder and first president.

Heading the delegation was Emanuel C. Wright, president of the Citizens and Southern Bank, Philadelphia, and son of Major Wright, who succeeded his father as the association's president.

The presentation was made in connection with the celebration of Freedom Day on Feb. 1 of each year. The celebration is in observance of President Lincoln's signing of the resolution submitting the 13th Amendment to the states for ratification.

PLEASANT TALK Sat.

Leaving the executive office in the White House, the delegation said they had had a very pleasant talk with President Truman, during which they told him of plans for the celebration of Freedom Day and pledged support of the report of his Committee on Civil Rights. 7-31-48

Reporters at the White House questioned Elder Solomon Lightfoot Michaux, the radio evangelist, who was a favorite of the late President Roosevelt, to find out whether he had promised to support President Truman in the Presidential campaign.

"My individual policy," said Elder Michaux, "is always to vote for the man God puts in, and the man God put in is in."

Others in the delegation were James A. Cobb, former District of Columbia Municipal Court Judge; Jesse Mitchell, president of the Industrial Bank of Washington, and J. B. Deans, of Philadelphia, district manager of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company. Journal + Guide

Earlier in the day reporters had tried to get President Truman to make some statement concerning his campaign plans.

FRONT PORCH CAMPAIGN

One reporter noted that several candidates had announced their intention to seek the Republican nomination. He was asked whether there would be any announcements for the Democratic nomination. Norfolk, Va.

He supposed there would be before the Democratic convention in Philadelphia next summer. Sat.

One reporter asked whether the President planned to do much traveling this summer. He said he might take a trip to Key West, Fla.

Did that mean there would be a back porch campaign, a reporter asked, referring to the balcony that Mr. Truman is having built on the south portico of the White House. He said there might be a front porch campaign, correcting the reporter. 7-31-48

The south side of the White House historically was the front, and the side facing on Pennsylvania avenue was the back.

National Freedom Day Association

The Weekly Review Birmingham, Ala.

The greatness of our United States of America again has been demonstrated in the life of a great American now memorialized by the designating of February First of each year as "NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY." In no other country could this have happened. Sat. 7-31-48

Ninety-five years ago a Negro slave was born in Georgia. From his early boyhood, freedom became his goal, — freedom physically, freedom educationally, freedom economically, freedom politically, and the "Four Freedoms." Each in turn were attained through his own efforts in a land dedicated to freedom. This boy became the internationally known Major R. R. Wright, Sr., Educator, Banker and Great American. 15

In 1941 he organized the National Freedom Day Association with te avowed purpose of establishing "NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY" throughout the nation on the First of February, the date on which President Abraham Lincoln had signed the resolution calling for the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America.

To commemorate thi sact whose significance grows with the years, one June 30th, 1948, President Harry Truman signed a resolution authorizing and requesting that each February First be proclaimed by the PPresident of the United States as "NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY" to be observed with appropriate ceremonies stressing the freedoms possessed and to be attained to maintain and improve our democratic way of life. Sat.

Present at the signing were two of Major Wright's children, Mrs. Harriet Wright Lemon and Mr. Emanuel C. Wright, his son-in-law Mr. J. E. Mitchell, and his friend, Elder S. L. Micheaux, Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, and Dr. Howard Jernagin. 7-31-48

Thus the dream of a Negro citizen has been realized. The last distinguishable words of Major Richard Robert Wright, Sr., as he passed on only a year ago to better worlds were "NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY." Now his National Freedom Day Association will carry ona to make this memorial a living and enduring thing with programs each "NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY" throughout the nation which will stress FREEDOM ,the basic essential of our democracy.

FREEDOM DAY 7-9-48

Another milestone toward freedom in America was very definitely reached a few days ago when President Truman signed a bill making February First of each year, National Freedom Day. The Argus

The Freedom Day idea and Freedom Day celebration was born with and nurtured by the late Richard Robert Wright, Philadelphia banker, educator and civic leader. In furthererance of his idea about Freedom Day, Major Wright organized the Freedom Day Association of which he was president and founder, which attracted national attention. "Let freedom ring" was the idea of the founder, who said that February First was the date that President Lincoln signed a resolution adding the Thirteenth Amendment to the federal constitution bringing freedom to millions of slaves. St. Louis, Mo.

As the years have gone by there were those who have advocated more freedom for all if democracy is to live. Major Wright was one of those, and President Truman is one of those. Fri. 7-9-48

The fight for Freedom is a rich heritage left by the founders of this great nation. We must keep up the fight. Therefore, the signing of the bill will give impetus to the movement, and will lend encouragement to those who are here to carry on the noble work thus begun by the late Richard R. Wright.

Congress Declares Feb. 1 "National Freedom Day"

Pittsburgh Courier 5

PITTSBURGH. — (A N P) — The first day of February in every year will henceforth be known as "National Freedom day," it was announced here last week by Mrs. Alma Illery, founder and president of the National Achievements clubs of America, Inc. Mrs. Illery said that Sen, Francis J. Meyers had notified her congress had passed a law to that effect. 7-24-48

National Freedom day is the brainchild of Maj. R. R. Wright, noted Philadelphia banker who died recently. Mrs. Illery herself was the leader in otaining congressional and presidential recognition of the first holiday for Negroes, known as George Washington Carver day."

President Truman Proclams National Freedom Day

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md. Sat. 1-15-48

President Harry S. Truman signs a bill proclaiming Feb. 1 as "National Freedom Day." That is the date on which the 13th Constitutional amendment banning slavery became law in 1865. Witnessing the signing are, from left: Mrs. Harriet Lemons, treasurer of the Citizens Bank and Trust Company, Philadelphia; J. E. Mitchell, editor of the St. Louis Argus; Mary McLeod Bethune, president of the Federal Council of Negro Women of America; E. C. Wright, president of the Citizens and Southern Bank and Trust Company; Dr. C. Jernagin, prominent Washington clergyman and Elder Solomon L. Michaux.

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md. Sat. 1-10-48

What Negroes Are Doing

Birmingham News Birmingham Ala. Historical Sun-1-25-48

BY MATTIE B. HOWE

The Emancipation Association of Greater Birmingham and vicinity has announced a program for observance of the 86th annual celebration of the emancipation of Negroes of the United States of America. The service will take place at Sixteenth Street Baptist Church at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 1, 1949.

Dr. W. L. Varnado, instructor at Birmingham Baptist College, and pastor of the Tabernacle Baptist Church of Birmingham, will deliver the principal address.

The Tabernacle Church choir has been invited to furnish the music. Prof. A. M. Montgomery, principal of Roseadale High School, is director of music for the association.

Among others having a prominent part on the program are Dr. Luke Beard, pastor of the host church, who will deliver the welcome address; Miss Regena Bahner, junior student at Fairfield Industrial High School, will read the Emancipation Proclamation; the Rev. L. G. Long, pastor of St. John A. M. E. Church; the Rev. C. H. Parker; Dr. F. R. Blakey, and the Rev. O. J. Jackson.

Guest speaker will be introduced by the Rev. G. B. Todd.

The Emancipation Association, Dr. W. H. Perry, president, is asking the cooperation of pastors, the heads of public and private schools and colleges, fraternal, civic, social and labor organization leaders to cooperate to make this the greatest emancipation celebration ever held here.

Associated with Dr. Perry are Dr. F. R. Blakey, vice president; the Rev. G. P. Crosby, recording secretary, and Dr. C. H. Georg[illegible] treasurer. Sun-1-25-48

* * *

MRS. M. B. GAILLARD, president of the Southeastern Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, and well known in church and civic circles of the state, and Editor Robert Durr of The Birmingham Weekly Review, have been notified of their selection by Gov. James E. Folsom as delegates, representing the state of Alabama, at the eighth annual observance of National Freedom Day at Philadelphia, Feb. 1, 1949.

Gov. Folsom named the two leaders following the request of Emanuel C. Wright, president of the National Freedom Day Association of Philadelphia, which was founded in 1941 by the late Maj. R. R. Wright. Alabama was represented at the celebration by Mrs. Gaillard and Mr. Durr last year. Sun-1-25-48

The program will be held at Congress, Independence and Town Halls in Philadelphia on Tuesday, Feb. 1.

117TH YEAR OF EMANCIPATION IN CANADA CELEBRATED BY 135,000

Boston Pilot Dec 3-13-49

Prince Chukuka of West Africa Is One Of Principal Speakers

THREE DAYS GIVEN OVER TO REJOICING

Cleveland Ohio

WINDSOR, Ontario, Canada.—(ANP)—More than 135,000 visitors of all races from the United States and Canada converged upon Windsor July 30-Aug. 1 for the observance of the 117th anniversary of the abolition of slavery in the British Empire.

Opening day was set apart for young people. An estimated crowd of 40,000 was entertained on Youth day with athletic activities and a talent show featuring scores of young people from America and Canada. Boy Scouts of both races distributed refreshments free to children.

Sunday was given over to the religious and more serious angle of the celebration. Featured on this "Program of Thanksgiving" was Dr. William H. Borders, pastor of Wheat Street Baptist church in Atlanta, Ga.

The third day featured the bathing beauty contest ,awarding of prizes to contestants in various events, and the big dance.

Although there is no one Emancipation day celebrated in Canada, this celebration honors the Emancipation act passed by the British First Reformed Parliament in 1833 which abolished slavery in British colonies.

The most reverent moments of the three-day program in Windsor was when the historic words of this act were read to more than 50,000 persons Sunday afternoon:

"An Act for the Abolition of Slavery, throughout the British Colonies.

"Act, except 12 rep. 58 and 59 Vict. 3 (E. L. B.) 12 . . . al and every the persons of the said first August one thousand eight hundred and thirty four shall be holden in slavery within any such British colony as aforesaid, shall cease and from and after the said first day of August one thousand eight hundred and thirty four be-come and be to all intents and purposes free and discharged of and from all manner of slavery, and shall be absolutely and forever manumitted, and the children thereafter to be born to any such persons, and the offspring of such children, shall in like manner be free from their birth, and slavery shall be and is hereby utterly and forever abolished and declared unlawful throughout the British colonies, plantations, and possessions abroad."

Jackson park was the main site of the celebration sponsored by the British-American Association of Colored Brothers, headed by Walter L. Perry of Windsor.

Sunday afternoon the annual parade formed in downtown Windsor, and moved to Jackson park. Bands played both American and Canadian music lining the streets.

At Jackson park the marchers took their positions in the huge grandstand. The opening ceremonies were brief, consisting of greetings from Mayor Arthur J. Reaume of Windsor and response from officers of the sponsoring organization.

A huge open air religious service led by Dr. Borders spotlighted the afternoon. Rev. Borders denounced the evils of Communism and said of western culture:

"Western civilization must turn to religion if it is to preserve. Communism is a bread and butter economy, appealing only to those who will follow any leadership in order to eat and clothe themselves, but in ungodliness will mean its ultimate defeat."

Sunday night, Prince Chukuka Enesewke of West Africa brought remarks from his native land. He was introduced by Mrs. Marie Jones. Soprano Mayme Richardson sang.

An estimated 50,000 persons saw Miss Mary Clark, 17, of Detroit, crowned "Miss International Sepia." A student of Northern high, she weighs 124 pounds, and is five feet six inches tall. Miss Beverly Evans, 17, Detroit, took second honors, and Miss Cora Davis, 17, Windsor, was third, and was crowned "Miss Windsor."

The present celebration, the greatest of its kind in the history of Windsor and Canada is the result of 20 years of dreaming and working by Perry. Speaking of the first program he saw, she said:

"I saw my people trying to celebrate Emancipation day in a small mosquito infested swampy park on the outskirts of Windsor. I watched them get drunk, be arrested and hauled off to jail, and I listened to the white people laugh at this annual show. I vowed to myself that some day we would stage a celebration that would make the whole community gasp."

When this group was able to get Jackson park for the Negro celebration, Perry said, many whites were aghast. Today, however, some of these same scoffers attend the program every year.

The first Monday in August, regardless of date is included as one of the three freedom days to be observed each year. This comes as a result of the first Monday of each month from June to September is a holiday in Ontario.

It is only recently that American Negroes have taken any great part in the program. In the past, Canadians did the work alone.

15 1949

It's Not The Alamo But Juneteenth

The Defender
Chicago, Ill.

By HODEE EDWARDS

IT'S Juneteenth in Texas.

To Texans, the word means liberation from slavery and the time for celebration; for on Juneteenth (June 19), 84 years ago, Union troops finally arrived in the state, assuring freedom for the oppressed.

15

Lincoln had issued his Emancipation Proclamation freeing slaves in September, 1863. But actual liberation did not come to Negroes in the area until the troops arrived. The soldiers did not get to Texas until 1865.

When the Men in Blue did arrive, they were greeted not only by the slaves but by many whites to whom slavery was as abhorrent as it was unendurable to the Negroes.

Sat. 6-18-49

In command of these troops was Major General Gordon Granger, a New Yorker by birth and one of the heroes of Chickamauga. His first act upon landing was to announce that henceforth all slaves in the great state were free. Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation had been issued on Sept. 23, 1863, and now its spirit was being made real for Texas.

Freedom, At Last

As word of this spread, out into the streets trooped thousands of people. The Negroes mingled with their many friends among white Texans. Spontaneously, the happy throngs tumbled along to the barbecue pits — Texas Negroes' contribution to the culinary delights of the nation. Pigs, cows, lambs, goats and fowl, so carefully concealed or even slaughtered at the approach of Confederate troops, were brought out now with abandon and roasted to juicy tenderness on the live coals. Stomachs were as full as hearts that day, with dancing to ease the strain on the one, while music let the ache from the other.

Freedom, At last! At last and overdue, at that.

For, the celebrants knew, whether any of them put the thought into words or not, that they had all—Negro and white—EARNED happiness. It was not being handed them on a silver platter by this welcomed federal officer. He merely confirmed an existing condition fought for and won within Texas itself by people of all national origins.

Slaves Were Not Passive

First and foremost, everyone knew then what their decendants were soon to be taught to forget: that the slaves themselves had never been passive under the lash. The slaveowners had lived in daily, hourly—and justified—fear. Moreover, everyone also knew—another fact their descendants still have someday to re-learn—that from the 1840's on, whenever slaves were caught or implicated in any anti-slavery or pro-Union act, white men were invariably also implicated, and punished with them.

It had been in October, 1835, they remembered, while Texas rebelled against Mexico, that a plot involving at least 100 slaves had been uncovered. These slaves had been arrested and many of them whipped nearly to death. Their "crime" was really serious in slaveowner eyes: their plan had been to divide the land after conquering their masters.

Early in July of 1860, fires had swept over the devastated cities and counties in northern Texas. Blame was at once fixed on scores of slaves, who, arrested, were beaten, tortured and executed. As always, white men were also implicated: the fires were ascribed to "abolitionists preparing a revolt of slaves," and several white men were beaten, tortured and executed along with the slaves.

The following is a list of the counties in which plots were reported, cities burned, or rebels executed: Anderson, Austin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Grimes, Hemp[illegible] Lamar, Milam, Montgom[illegible] Rusk, Tarrant, Walker and [illegible].

[illegible]ng Lasted 8 Weeks

[illegible]se uprisings lasted some [illegible] weeks. They were the answer of the slaves and white progressives to the anti-Union hysteria which swept Texas, as it did all the South, preceding and following the election of Abraham Lincoln—and deepening with the firing on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861.

This hysteria against the Union was spread mainly by secret societies of the slaveholders, such as the Knights of the Golden Circle set up in Texas in 1860. It was implemented by illegal "vigilance committees" whose work was sampled in the hanging of three Negroes in Dallas that year, and of three white men on Fort Worth gallows for "tampering" with slaves.

Sat. 6-18-49

Slaves resorted to strikes and sabotage during the war. A Texas slaveholder in 1863, greatly alarmed at the extent of damage caused by his slaves, is reported to have tried putting on an unmercifully cruel overseer, who beat and shot down slaves. Soon finding this measure of no avail, he even considered getting rid of his slaves and working "with my hands."

Finally, slaves were extremely active in aiding Union spies, Confederate deserters and escaped Yankee prisoners.

The record of white Texans who aided the Union and the cause of Abolition before and during the Civil War was a proud one, too.

Despite the fact that 90 per cent of all white immigrants to Texas came from the old South, by 1848 two factions had developed in the state. One, led by Sam Houston, opposed the extension of slavery; the other, led by slavers, stood for "states rights;" that is, the unbridled expansion of slavery.

By 1857, the "states rights" faction had gained control of the Democratic Party, while the Whigs and "Know-Nothings" had both disappeared from the political scene. As a result, Sam Houston was defeated for governor by an extreme pro-slavery man named Runnels.

Rabidly Pro-Slavery

For the next two years, no state in the South was more rabidly pro-slavery in its activity than Texas. But pro-Union and anti-slavery feeling in the state were strong enough that, in 1859, Sam Houston again won the governorship.

Pro-Union men supporting Governor Houston opposed demands for secession. Houston, argued that the South could protect "her own interests" better inside the Union than outside, refused requests to call a special session of the slaver-controlled legislature.

Thereupon, the secessionists appealed over his head to the voters of the state—which is, for all practical purposes, to say the white male slaveholders. A convention was called for January, 1861, to be comprised of two representatives from each political district

Houston Outsmarted

Out smarted, Houston hastily convened the legislature to January 21, 1861, a week before the convention was scheduled. The legislature authorized the convention to act for the people of Texas, but pro-Union sentiment forced them to add that the matter of secession was to be left to the electorate to decide.

When the convention met on Jan. 28, it drew up the proposed ordinance of secession. Eight delegates defied hysteria to vote against it. They also opposed convention action in sending seven delegates to the Confederate Convention at Montgomery, Alabama. The convention adjourned on Feb. 5 to reconvene March 2, following the election.

Exceptions To Sucessions

When the vote was counted on secession, 46,129 pro-slave votes constituted a majority. Nevertheless, 14,697 white male Texans cast their vote for the Union. Ten counties around Austin gave the Union a majority. Even among some heavy slave-holding counties history recorded exceptions to the huge majority favoring secession.

On March 2, 1861, the reconvened convention, despite the fact that the vote for secession had not specifically authorized joining the Confederacy, took that step. Houston refused to pledge allegiance to the Southern government and said the convention had no authority to put Texas in the Confederacy. He was summarily removed from office.

Abraham Lincoln had offered federal aid if Houston would try to maintain his position by force. This far, Houston was not ready to go. His refusal undoubtedly was a contributing factor in what happened to the federal troops guarding the Texas border, the very troops which would have come to his aid had he been willing.

Twiggs Outmaneuvers Waite

Texas frontier garrisons were manned by 2700 Federal soldiers, constituting more than 10 per cent of the entire U. S. Regular Army at that time. Commanding these troops was one Major General D. E. Twiggs, a Georgian, with headquarters at San Antonio. Garrisons and equipment under his command were worth $3,000,000. The entire national income around this time was estimated at $10,000,000.

Following Lincoln's election, Twiggs had requested orders from his superiors. They gave him none. He then offered to resign, and his resignation was accepted. C. A. Waite was named to replace him. Waite never made it. Twiggs worked too fast.

Immediately the resignation became known, the Texas convention demanded that Twiggs surrender all public arms and munitions Piously Twiggs noted that such a step would not be "legal" before the vote on secession on March 2. The Texas Confederate troops, under Ben McCulloch, obliged by marching into San Antonio. Twiggs at once came to terms. The agreement provided that the 160 Federal troops in the garrison were to leave, after surrendering Federal property. On Feb. 18, Twiggs completed his treason with a similar agreement covering all Federal garrisons in the state.

Resistance To Drop

After the firing on Fort Sumter, on April 12, 1861, McCulloch declared void the agreement with Twiggs. All 2700 of the Federal troops with their side arms and other equipment were impounded as prisoners of war for the duration.

In 1862, organized resistance to the draft in Texas had to be put down by martial law under Confederate General Magruder. Many Unionists left Texas early in the war, both to avoid the draft and to serve with the United States Army. Others hid out in the isolated wastes of Texas where they were joined by deserters from state and Confederate forces.

By Feb. of 1863, desertion had become such a problem in Texas that General Magruder called on the governor for aid in suppressing it. In Wise, Denton, and neighboring counties, deserters became so numerous that "they intimidated loyal citizens the General reported.

Scores were arrested, tried and convicted by the "vigilance committees." At Gainesville in Cooke County forty men were hanged for merely belonging to this organization. Five men were hanged in Wise county for the same offense. Forty more were condemned to death in Grayson county, but organized pressure forced the release of all but one of these.

The two trends of resistance to

[illegible] the record of [illegible] fight of Negro and [illegible] gradually, the holiday [illegible] celebrated in Texas [illegible] gro people alone.

[illegible], when a new current [illegible]cy is rising in Texas. [illegible]ut the South, it is high [illegible] recalling the facts, to [illegible]e smudge of lies from [illegible] of our history.

All this is how it happened that, [illegible] for the [illegible] struggle for [illegible] Union found dramatic expression only a little more than a month [illegible] in the last battle of the Civil War after this battle, Federal troops [illegible] This battle was fought in Texas and [illegible] at Palmito Ranch near Brownsville on May 13, 1865, two monthstory were celebrating. [illegible] after Appomatox. 300 Texas Con- Every year for nine more years, [illegible] federates "defeated" two Negro white and Negro celebrated this [illegible] regiments and a company of un- anniversary. But with the re- [illegible] mounted white Texas pro-Union action, which reached Texas [illegible] cavalry. It was from prisoners 1874, distortion of history got un- [illegible] taken in this typical battle that der way. [illegible] the Confederates learned of Lee's Soon, ex-Confederates, prod- [illegible] surrender. ded and directed by democracy [illegible]

More than 60 percent of Wisconsin's land area is in farms.

'Mixed' Celebrations End

—shv Northern industrialists.

15 1949 National Freedom Day Organization

President Truman Honored by Freedom Day Organization

Representatives of the National Freedom Day Organization last Thursday awarded President Truman a citation for naming February First as "Freedom Day." Left to right are: Dr. Nathaniel Duff, Philadelphia; Horace M. Bond, president of Lincoln University (Pa.); Rep. William T. Granahan (Dem., Pa.); President Truman; E. C. Wright, president of the National Freedom Day Organization in Philadelphia; Elder S. L. Michaux of Washington; Earl F. Dales, Philadelphia; and Judge Armond W. Scott of Washington.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN GETS AWARD

PHILADELPHIANS are in a group honoring President Truman. Representatives of National Freedom Day group present Chief Executive with citation. From left, Dr. Nathaniel S. Duff, Philadelphia; Horace M. Bond, president of Lincoln University; Rep. William T. Granahan, Philadelphia; Sen. Francis J. Myers, Pennsylvania; President Truman, E. C. Wright, Philadelphia, president Freedom Day organization; Elder S. L. Michaux, Washington; Earl F. Dales, Philadelphia and Judge Armond W. Scott of Washington.